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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The Public Health menials such as scavengers, cartmen and sweepers are paid from contingencies according to market rates prevailing in the areas concerned. The rates vary from municipality to municipality. The rates of dearness allowance paid to the employees of local authorities are Rs. 18 up to a salary of Rs. 20 and Rs. 19 for salaries more than Rs. 20. The total amount of pay and dearness allowance paid to the Public Health menials does not exceed the market rate.

"(*c*) & (*d*) As they are paid at market rates, (*c*) and (*d*) do not arise."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN:—"In view of the fact that the salaries paid to Public Health menials in certain municipalities are not enough to meet the rise in the cost of living, will the Government consider an increase in their salaries?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"It is open to the local authorities to pay at a higher rate where the prevailing market rates and the financial position of the local authorities warrant it."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware that Vijayawada, Guntur and certain other municipalities are prepared to pay at higher rates but that the Commissioner and the Government are standing in their way?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Any particular instance brought to the notice of the Government will be enquired into."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM:—"Are the Government aware that labourers should not be called menials according to a communication sent by the Government of India and that in the Madras Corporation we use the term 'thozhilali' instead of 'mazdoor' which we in Tamilnad do not like?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"The objection is quite right, and I have been feeling it myself. Certain forms have to be changed. Hon. Members will be patient, I hope."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* HUNGER-STRIKE IN CANNANORE JAIL.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayana Nambiar has given notice of an adjournment motion which reads as follows:—

'I hereby give notice to move that the business of this House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the hunger-strike by political prisoners Messrs. Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and A. V. Chindan in Cannanore Central Jail with effect from 20th July 1952.'

[Mr. Speaker] [24th July 1952

An adjournment motion must relate to a definite matter of urgent public importance and the matter concerned must involve the administrative responsibility of the Government. I shall allow two or three minutes for the hon. Member to explain how his adjournment motion satisfies the above conditions. Then I will give my ruling."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two political prisoners Messrs. Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and A. V. Chindan have several times requested the Government through the Hon. the Minister for Jails and also through the authorities concerned that at least human treatment should be accorded to them. It is not for any great demands which are not possible of fulfilment by the Government that they are on hunger-strike. They are compelled to resort to hunger-strike as a last resort."

MR. SPEAKER:—" How is it a matter of urgent public importance? If they go on hunger-strike voluntarily, what have the Government to do with it?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" The point that my hon. Friend wants to urge is that the Government are responsible for the treatment meted out to the prisoners and that it is as a result of the kind of treatment meted out that they have gone on hunger-strike."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I do not know why the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition smiles after explaining the intention of the Member who has given notice of the adjournment motion. Probably he is under the impression that the motion is out of order."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" Sir, here is a very important matter concerning the people, the Government and this House. Here we have an instance of representations being made to the Government, not once but oftentimes, that political prisoners inside the jails are not treated as political prisoners, and that their representations are not being cared for. Because the prisoners could not do anything else to draw the attention of the public, the Assembly and the Ministers, they went on hunger-strike as a last resort. It is a matter of great public importance to the people outside, the Government and this House. Hence I request that the motion may be allowed."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Hunger-strike does not involve the administrative responsibility of the Government. Hence I rule the motion out of order."

IV.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—*cont.*

(1) DEMAND XXIII—HARIJAN UPLIFT—*cont.*

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN:—" கனம் சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே. . . ."